



# Stop the state's Water Grab!

## Attend a Rally on August 20, 2018 at Noon

For many years, efficiently using water has been a priority for South San Joaquin Irrigation District and our growers. We have worked tirelessly together to protect and conserve our most precious resource on the Stanislaus River, especially during more frequent and severe drought years, but during years of plenty as well. We also take seriously protecting the environment that relies upon the health of the river to thrive. But, as we have shared with you before, the California State Water Resources Control Board has been planning to require higher "unimpaired" river flows on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced for "fish and pulse flows." We have put countless resources towards studying the science behind fish survival and believe the water board's proposal will be extremely detrimental to our District and our region, with little to no fishery benefit. We have testified before the water board and provided years of scientific research that proves more water down the river does NOT equal more fish. After all has been said and done, the water board has chosen to stick with their ill-conceived plan and announced that they could approve the final version of the plan on August 21st.

**Assemblyman Adam Gray is coordinating a rally Monday, Aug. 20 at noon on the north steps of the State Capitol (facing L Street) to protest the water board's unfair plan to hijack billions of gallons of water from the region's rivers.**

The state falsely claims increased "unimpaired flows" will boost salmon populations in the rivers -- **ignoring scientific data** that shows reducing predation and restoring habitat also are critical factors. The state's plan could lead to **billions of dollars in economic damage** each year throughout our region. Everyone would be affected in one way or another.

- One analysis forecasts an economic loss of \$12.9 billion in the first year higher flows would be required. The state's plan minimizes the regional economic impact at \$106.2 million.
- Ag and residential customers in the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and SSJID service areas face 20% annual reductions (from a combined 600,000 acre-feet to 480,000 AF) in water allotments during "normal" years. Cuts would be **more severe** during times of drought. The districts would go from 535,000 AF to 236,000 AF in "dry" and "critically dry" years.

- New Melones Reservoir would go dry 12 times out of every 95 years.
- Groundwater pumping across the region would increase dramatically, to as much as 1.57 million acre-feet in sequential dry years. The state estimates cities and farmers would only pump 105,000 acre-feet a year.
- More than 132,000 acres of farmland would be fallowed across the region because surface water deliveries would be lost or reduced and growers with access to groundwater couldn't afford to pump it. The state's estimate is less than 24,000 acres.
- SSJID and OID would forfeit key revenue streams in water transfers and zero carbon hydropower generation as a result of this plan—**revenue that helps keep rates affordable for all our customers**. Combined, there would be a loss in the ability to produce as much as \$10 million in hydroelectric power a year from facilities at New Melones and Tulloch reservoirs. In addition, there would be no opportunity to transfer surplus surface water from our districts to other water agencies, a \$3 million to \$5 million annual hit for each district and a reduction in critical water supply to meet local and statewide water user needs.

***That's why it's so important that businessmen and women, political leaders, farmers and everyday citizens come together Aug. 20 in Sacramento. We need to speak loudly with one voice to stop this unfair water grab! Please join us in our fight to save our water and our future! We need to work together now more than ever.***

Free bus transportation is being arranged by the Farm Bureaus in Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced counties. Seating is limited so you must call in advance to reserve your spot. All buses arrive for the Rally at 11:30 a.m. and depart afterwards at 1:30 p.m.

-- **Merced:** 8 a.m. departure (209) 723-3001

-- **Turlock:** 9 a.m. departure (209) 522-7278

-- **Stockton:** 10:30 a.m. departure (209) 931-4931

*For more information, please contact Adam Gray's District Office at (209) 726-5465.*